

## Sixty-Six Years of Appreciating and Serving Our Members

Coweta-Fayette EMC's 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day, held October 12 at the cooperative headquarters, was a wonderful opportunity for our Team to visit with Members. It's

always a pleasure to meet all of you and to see your families enjoying the events our great employees have planned. The weather was spectacular, and we thank you for stopping by.

At this year's gathering, Members voted almost unanimously to approve bylaw changes making it possible to offer additional voting options at future annual meetings. These voting options include mail-in and electronic ballot-

ing, as well as a continuation of on-site voting (but allowing for Members to immediately cast ballots, instead of waiting for the business meeting to begin). To further streamline the process in terms of accuracy and efficiency, cutting-edge scanning machines will be used to count paper ballots electronically next year.

In this month's Powerlines, you will find important information about our new Futura electronic mapping system and the helpful outage data it provides online at *utility.org*. We did extensive due diligence prior to using this system to ensure it would provide the most benefit to our employees and Members. Futura offers a state-of-the-art software package developed by Southeastern Data Cooperative (SEDC), the company that provides our utility software and accounting, billing, capital credit and work order systems. It is fully integrated with our other SEDC systems, and this means every piece works seamlessly together to produce excellent results. Our employees continue to embrace technology to serve you faster and better.

We have much to be proud of in our area. The completion of a new West Georgia Technical College campus and the beginning of construction on a new University of West Georgia campus, both in Newnan, is fantastic. Also, the continued growth in healthcare facilities and providers is exciting and clearly dem-



onstrates that prosperity's front door is wide open in Coweta-Fayette EMC's service territory.

Our area is also fortunate to have excellent school system superintendents. For example, I recently had

the honor to talk to and gain insight from Dr. Steve Barker (Coweta) and Dr. Joseph Barrow (Fayette). Both of these great leaders, as well as other local educators, understand what schools need today. More importantly, they both exhibit "future vision" regarding what teachers will need to provide students tomorrow to compete in a world economy where real-time information and reactions are required to be competitive. It is about

building upon the basics, but refining and expanding them to fit a changing business world landscape. Our cooperative fully supports each county's Board of Education in their efforts to provide the most rewarding scholastic experience possible.

On a related note, a Fayette County "visioning process" is currently in the works, and every effort has been made to include all community groups in this county-wide effort. An initiative of such magnitude and importance has not happened in Fayette County since 1988, when the "Fayette '93" five-year plan was developed. As a result, the organization that is now Piedmont Fayette Hospital was supported and built. The opportunity to once again produce a successful vision plan is at hand, and Coweta-Fayette EMC supports the diverse efforts that will be needed. It is a great challenge to define a community's goals and to ensure the expectations represent the majority view in Fayette County, but the reward will provide exponential benefits to our children and future generations. Please contact the Fayette Chamber of Commerce if you or your organization would like to participate in the visioning process.

For the Team. Anthony H. Sinclair "Jony" Anthony H. Sinclair "Tony"

## Growing Academic Excellence: West Georgia Technical College Puts Down Roots

As Thanksgiving approaches and students delve further into schoolbooks, Coweta-Fayette EMC would like to show heartfelt appreciation for one local educational institution that has gone above and beyond to make a big impact in our community: West Georgia Technical College (WGTC).



The WGTC Foundation-funded "Newnan Hospital, Inc. Allied Health Services Building" is one of two buildings at the new West Georgia Tech site.

The thriving two-year school, a member of the Technical College System of Georgia, currently serves the expanding needs of Carroll, Coweta, Douglas, Haralson, Heard, Meriwether and Troup Counties. With over 110 approved programs of study, WGTC seeks to meet the varied requirements of students, businesses, industries and many others in our quickly developing area of the state.

In September, WGTC cut the ribbon on a brandnew stand-alone facility in Coweta after years of sharing space with Newnan's Central Educational Center (CEC), a joint venture between businesses and schools.

"We at West Georgia Tech could not be more excited about our strengthened presence in Coweta County," WGTC President Dr. Skip Sullivan said."This new campus allows us to radically expand our program offerings and show this community the very best of what West Georgia Technical College has to offer."

WGTC will continue to have a direct impact on area economic development by providing a skilled workforce for new and existing employers. Through state-of-the-art technology and top-notch educational resources, the school will enable students to become skillful professionals in their chosen careers. WGTC also hopes their tradi-



WGTC board members and trustees, as well as state and local dignitaries, cut the ribbon to the new Coweta campus on Turkey Creek Road.

tion of accessibility and affordability will make our community a better place to live

"We encourage residents to stop by and look around. From a public library to a full-service bookstore, beautiful community room and inviting student center, we know this campus will make them proud," Sullivan said.

Last year, Coweta-Fayette EMC provided funding to the WGTC Foundation to assist in the completion of the new campus on 38 acres of prime real estate donated by Orchard Hills Golf Properties, LLC along I-85 at Turkey Creek Road.

"We believe in West Georgia Technical College and the tremendous opportunities this institution can bring to our area," said Coweta-Fayette CEO Anthony "Tony" Sinclair. "Skip and his team have already done amazing things in our community, and I can't wait to see what the future holds."

After months of construction, the finished West Georgia Technical College site consists of two buildings – one, the WGTC Foundation-funded "Newnan Hospital, Inc. Allied Health Services Building," and another, a state-funded general classroom facility.



Nursing students and instructors practice in stateof-the-art classrooms designed to simulate realworld hospital settings.

# New Online Maps Provide Cutting-Edge Outage Information

While none of us ever wants an outage, Mother Nature often has other ideas. From stormy weather and icy conditions to animal interference and falling tree limbs, a temporary loss of electricity at one time or another is unavoidable.

To prepare for and handle these occasional yet inevitable interruptions in service, Coweta-Fayette EMC always seeks to improve upon our existing and efficient outage management methods. And as technology evolves, so too do our capabilities.

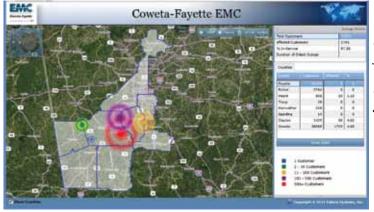
One such update we've recently made is the addition of Futura Systems mapping software to our expansive problem solving "tool belt." The applications and solutions provided by this industry-leading system have already been proven by many utility providers across the country, and Coweta-Fayette EMC is thrilled, as always, to be a part of the cuttingedge technology trends that serve members best.

The Futura system will help us improve response times and reduce outage duration. You, our members, need only click on the storm center tab at *utility.org* to have amazing detail and accuracy at your fingertips. Once inside the storm center, you will see a map of our service area with a geographical representation of outages using color-coded indicators. To the right, you'll find the numerical data – total number of members, the amount of people affected (broken down by county) and the total percentage of members in-service. This should be particularly helpful and comforting to those members who are out of town or at work and need to see exactly what areas are affected. Worried about your teenager home alone in the dark? Zoom in to view your neighborhood specifically and monitor the situation as it evolves. The accuracy and transparency this system provides is second-to-none.

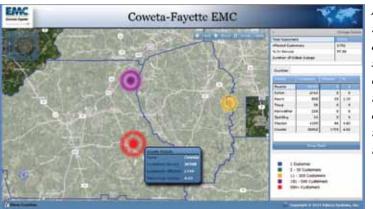
In addition to this amazing outage map, the Futura system provides applications for monitoring, inspecting, tracking and updating field items and tools, from transformers to switches and more. A work management system is also provided to help keep teams informed and projects on schedule.

According to Engineering Vice President Chris Stephens, the Futura software will now integrate real-time with the EMC's current computer and accounting systems. "We were looking for solid integration coupled with a software that was on the leading edge of technology, and a company that would support us for years to come," he said. "Futura software will enable us to create and maintain the detailed network model and facilities data that we need for planning, operations and management."

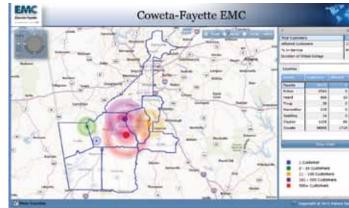
At Coweta-Fayette EMC, we strive to continually improve our member service, during blue skies and storms. We hope you will find our new online storm center a useful tool should the need arise, and we encourage you to visit our website now to familiarize yourself with the system.



When visiting our online storm center, you will find an overview of our service area and glowing icons that pinpoint outages . To the right, you'll see numerical data broken down by county.



As you zoom into any outage area, the specifics of that outage pop up to provide the details members need on a realtime basis.



Members may view the maps either aerially or as a road view. The accuracy at your fingertips is amazing!

### Without Your Current Contact Information, We Are Powerless!

To ensure Coweta-Fayette EMC continues to provide the best possible member service, please double check that we have your correct telephone number(s) and an email address on file.

It is crucial for us to have this information, because Coweta-Fayette EMC uses phone numbers to help determine your service location when you report an outage via the automated outage reporting system. Because so many members use mobile phones to report an outage, it is also important for us to have cell numbers on record. This helps us recognize your number and subsequently, your location. Additionally, providing your email address is a useful tool for contact purposes.

You can easily update your account information online at *utility.org*. Simply hover over the "My Home" tab on the left side of the page and then select "Update Address and Phone Number." From there, a page will appear to input your data and submit.

If you prefer, you may also call customer service at 770-502-0226 or choose the "Contact Customer Service" option online. Thank you for your help as Coweta-Fayette strives to serve you better!



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## A Powerful Bond: Sharing the Light and Making Memories with Costa Rican Visitors

No matter how you speak or with what accent the words are formed, connections between international co-ops are universal: the language of light and the spark of camaraderie trump any barriers that may exist.

To solidify that bond, five representatives from Coopeguanacaste – Coweta-Fayette EMC's sister cooperative in Costa Rica – visited their American counterparts in September to learn technical best practices, share electric utility knowledge and enjoy our culture and local highlights.

The group — including two linemen, a supervisor and two engineers — traveled here to shadow and train alongside crews, technicians and other personnel (at Carroll EMC in Carrollton and Flint Energies in Warner Robins, as well as Coweta-Fayette), discuss safe construction, work with energized lines and demonstrate techniques used at their own co-op.

Jorge Gutiérrez Matarrita and Denis Matarrita Villarreal, both linemen, and Greddy Zeledón Díaz, a supervisor, worked September 9-20 with Coweta-Fayette's overhead "hot line" crews to become familiar with energized line work. Carlos Cascante Sánchez and Roberto González Calderón, both engineers, visited September 9-13 to train on the EMC's data control system and observe underground wire installation.

During their visit, the group enjoyed learning and working but also shopping, forging life-long friendships, going to a Braves game and seeing the Georgia Aquarium.

EMC Engineering Vice President Chris Stephens said the opportunity for international cooperatives to interact with an American cooperative, and vice versa, is an invaluable experience.

"It's important to continue working together to exchange information, ideas and differences in culture – a combination that makes us all better people," he said.

Coweta-Fayette and Coopguanacaste, an electric cooperative serving the territory around Nicoya, Costa Rica, have been sister cooperatives for ten years, largely due to the EMC's involvement in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International Foundation.

